

America, and those who may call upon her, who do not know her but see her as a soldier or sojourner for truth.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CARRIE MEEK, MEMBER OF CON- GRESS

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, this is with both great pride and sadness that I rise today to join what I really think are unprecedented spontaneous words of Members to talk about our friend and our colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

I joined this Chamber with her 10 years ago with several other Members from Florida, and particularly from south Florida. Three of us were elected: myself, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

For those of us in south Florida, we literally stepped on the shoulders of giants: Claude Pepper, Dante Fascell, Bill Lehman. I think for all of us those truly were icons in American history. We felt we could fill their shoes, but we knew of their legacy. I think after 10 years it is absolutely clear that at least one of us has attained that legacy, and that is the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), who really in the history of America stands out as a unique leader.

Clearly not just in the history of Florida, in the history of south Florida, but truly in the history of America she is an icon, an icon in terms of integrity, accomplishment, work, and compassion. I think that is something that she will remain for the rest of her life and for all history. Her legacy is not just her good works but her family, as well, who join her in public service and will continue.

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(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my words of tribute to the spontaneous demonstration this afternoon on behalf of our colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), who has recently announced her retirement. This is an announcement that caught us by surprise and that we regret; but we welcome this chance to pay tribute to the gentlewoman from Florida for whom we have great admiration and affection.

I have sat next to the gentlewoman from Florida on both of my Appropriations subcommittees for some years now, both the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies and the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government. We

have sat through many hearings and many markups together. We have had some good times, and we have had some real challenges. I have developed great affection and respect for the gentlewoman from Florida during this period of service.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is a fighter. I will never forget the kind of fight she made for the hurricane victims when her district was stricken some years ago. This very day, I have seen her fighting for people without adequate banking services in our Committee on Appropriations.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) does not always win these fights, but she always fights with conviction, with a compelling case, and with the kind of style that makes her a very hard person to oppose. She has a warm and winning way; she wins admiration and friendship on both sides of the aisle. She is a unique Member of this body. I have counted it a real privilege to serve with her and am looking forward to several months more of service as we go through the appropriations cycle.

I wanted to rush over here when I saw this spontaneous tribute arising on the House floor, because I am so fond of Mrs. MEEK and so admiring of her. I am pleased this afternoon to add my words of tribute, to wish her well, and to say that in her months remaining here I anticipate many more good fights and good times as we serve together.

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(Ms. WATSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to give my tribute this afternoon, but we cannot be in these Chambers or in hearing distance and not be compelled to come up and add to this tribute. We are going to say more later.

I have known the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) for almost 30 years now. I remember her as a legislator who rushed up to me one day and said, What is the name of that bill, that bill? What is the number of that bill that you had? We want to do it in Florida. She was always probing, always seeking to make good public law.

We served together in Noble Women many years ago. I just went up to her and I said, I want to take credit for getting you here in 1992. After that very devastating earthquake she called my office. We had had a big uprising in Los Angeles. She said, What can I do? I have two young men running against me. I said, Turn your headquarters into an emergency relief center. She did that. She gave out beds and blankets and food, and she ended up in the place where she needed to be; that was in the House of Representatives.

She has served with distinction, but most of all, she has served with heart,

directly under God, and shared that with all of us. For that, we will be eternally grateful to you, Carrie. We love you.

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(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it just happens that today I had on the great colors red and white. I am pleased, as a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an international woman's sorority, to stand here to salute my soror, the Honorable gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

It has been wonderful to have an opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives with her. We had a wonderful chance to talk about the great Delta days, about Bethune College, about basketball. In fact, recently she and I coached the Congressional Basketball Team called the Hills Angels as we played the Georgetown law faculty.

But more importantly, she is full of history, full of wonder, full of grace; and I am so pleased and blessed to have had the opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives with her, if only for 4 years.

□ 1700

In your lifetime God gives you the opportunity to be touched by a number of people. I am so pleased that I had a chance to be touched by this wonderful, wonderful woman called CARRIE MEEK. And I look forward to your further years of service. We will not let you retire. We may let you leave here, but we have other jobs for you, Mrs. CARRIE MEEK.

On behalf of all the Deltas from across the world, 190,000 strong, we salute our soror, CARRIE MEEK.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHUSTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. THURMAN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)